

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

We claim:

1-85. (Cancelled)

86. (Currently amended) A double-stranded ribonucleic acid (dsRNA) comprising a complementary RNA strand, a sense RNA strand and only one lipophilic group having a $\log K_{ow}$ exceeding 1, wherein the complementary RNA strand has a nucleotide sequence which is complementary to a target RNA, and wherein the target RNA is an mRNA transcript of a target gene or of a (+) strand RNA virus, wherein the lipophilic group is covalently attached to a 5'-end of the complementary RNA strand and ~~the~~ a linkage between the lipophilic group and the 5'-end of the complementary RNA strand comprises a phosphodiester group or wherein the lipophilic group is covalently attached to a 5'-end of the sense RNA strand.

87-99. (Cancelled)

89. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the linkage between the lipophilic group and the 5'-end of the sense RNA strand comprises a phosphodiester group.

90. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the lipophilic group is covalently attached to the 5'-end of sense RNA strand and the linkage between the lipophilic group and the 5'-end of the sense RNA strand does not comprise a phosphodiester group.

91-93. (Cancelled)

94. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the lipophilic group is a steroid or a branched aliphatic hydrocarbon, or a combination thereof.
95. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 94, wherein the lipophilic group is a sterol.
96. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 95, wherein the sterol is cholesterol or a cholesterol derivative.
97. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 96, wherein the lipophilic group is cholesteryl (6-hydroxyhexyl) carbamate or 12-hydroxydodecanoic acid bisdecylamide.
98. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the lipophilic group is selected from the group consisting of an aromatic, aliphatic or alicyclic moiety, or a combination thereof.
99. (Cancelled)
100. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the lipophilic group has a $\log K_{ow}$ exceeding 1.5.
101. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the lipophilic group has a $\log K_{ow}$ exceeding 2.
102. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the lipophilic group has a $\log K_{ow}$ exceeding 3.
- 103-109. (Cancelled)

110. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the complementary RNA strand comprises a 3'-end and a 5'-end, and wherein the 3'-end has a nucleotide overhang of 1 to 4 nucleotides.
111. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the complementary RNA strand comprises a 3'-end and a 5'-end, and wherein the 3'-end has a nucleotide overhang of 1 or 2 nucleotides.
112. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein each of the complementary RNA strand and the sense RNA strand comprises a 3'-end and a 5'-end, wherein the lipophilic group is covalently attached to the 5'-end of the sense RNA strand, and wherein the 3'-end of the complementary RNA strand comprises a nucleotide overhang of 1 to 4 nucleotides.
113. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 112, wherein the linkage between the lipophilic group and the 5'-end of the sense strand does not comprise a phosphodiester group.
114. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the dsRNA is between 16 and 30 nucleotides in length.
115. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the dsRNA is between 16 and 25 nucleotides in length.
116. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the dsRNA is between 20 and 25 nucleotides in length.
117. (Currently amended) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the target ~~gene~~ RNA is expressed in a cell selected from the group consisting of a hepatocyte, a pancreatic cell, a uterine cell, a cell of a cervix, and a cell of a urinary bladder.

118. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the (+) strand RNA virus is a Hepatitis C Virus (HCV).
119. (Currently amended) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the target ~~gene~~ RNA is at least a portion of a 3'-untranslated region (3'-UTR) of a Hepatitis C Virus (HCV).